

News Release
U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Rhode Island



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Federal prosecutor returns from legal detail in Iraq

**Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen G. Dambruch
was part of U.S. group that assists Iraqi prosecution of war crimes**

Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen G. Dambruch has recently returned from a ten-month legal detail in Iraq. He was part of an American group that assists the Iraqi High Tribunal in its prosecution of war crimes and crimes against humanity allegedly committed under Sadaam Hussein's Ba'thist regime.

"We are proud that Steve volunteered for this dangerous and important mission, providing legal assistance to the Iraqi prosecution," United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente said. "We are also relieved and happy to have him back in the fold here to prosecute federal offenders in Rhode Island."

In Iraq, Mr. Dambruch was an attorney-advisor with the Regimes Crimes Liaison office (RCLO), which the President established in May 2004 to assist the Iraqi High Tribunal in its investigation and prosecution of war crimes and crimes against humanity. It is headed by the Regimes Crimes Liaison, who is appointed by the U.S. Attorney General. The RCLO provides support only and all legal decisions are made by the Iraqi High Tribunal.

Mr. Dambruch's primary assignment was to assist a panel of Iraqi investigative judges with legal advice by helping gather evidence and witness statements.

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“It was a fascinating experience that provided me with great insight about a part of the world, a legal system, and a culture that I had known little about,” Dambruch said. “I am grateful to the U.S. Attorney for allowing me to undertake the detail in Iraq. I am also grateful to my colleagues here in the office who had to pick up my workload while I was gone. In that sense, it wasn’t just my detail, it was everyone’s.”

Mr. Dambruch served in various support roles in the recently completed trial concerning the 1982 killings by the Sadaam regime in Dujail, where Ba’thists retaliated against civilians after someone fired on Sadaam’s convoy. Sadaam and his half-brother were condemned to death last month for authorizing that massacre.

In addition to legal assistance provided to the prosecution, Mr. Dambruch provided logistical assistance to the prosecutors, the judges, and defense counsel. He also served as the RCLO liaison to senior American, Iraqi and other government officials who attended the trial sessions.

Mr. Dambruch left for Iraq in December 2005 and returned in late October.

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